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BRIXWORTH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1919.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have much pleasure in presenting herewith my THIRTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT dealing with the Vital Statistics and the Sanitary Condition of the Brixworth Rural District, comprised of 36 Parishes, having an area of 63,647 acres, an estimated population of *10,941, and 2,987 families or separate occupiers.

* This estimate refers to the civilian population only, and is supplied by the Registrar-General for the purpose of calculating the various death-rates given below for the year 1919. Similarly for the purpose of calculating the birth-rate a further estimate of the population has been supplied, viz., 11,397, and the following extract from the Memo. on the subject issued by the Registrar-General is self-explanatory :—

“The ‘death-rate population’ excludes all non-civilian males, whether serving at home or abroad. This is necessary for the purposes of local death-rates because it has proved impossible to transfer the deaths of non-civilians to their areas of residence or to deal in any other satisfactory manner with the local mortality of this element in the population. These estimates are based mainly upon the rationing returns kindly placed at the Registrar-General’s disposal by the Ministry of Food.

The ‘birth-rate population’ on the other hand is intended to include all the elements of the population contributing to the birth-rate. It consists, therefore, of the death-rate or civilian population *plus* all non-civilians enlisted from this country, whether serving at home or abroad. This non-civilian element has been distributed over all the districts in the country in proportion to their estimated civilian population.”

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS.—During the year 1919, there were 169 births registered in the District, as against 167 for the year 1918, an increase of 2, or a birth-rate of 14·8 per 1,000 of the population, as against 14·4 for 1918. It is to be noted that the girls outnumbered the boys, the figures being 86 and 83 respectively.

DEATHS.—The total deaths (excluding 15 deaths of persons not belonging to the District, and including 18 deaths of persons dying outside the District but belonging to it) amounted to 152 as against 155 in 1918, shewing a decrease of 3, and a death-rate of 13·8 per 1,000 of the population, as against 13·4 for the year 1918. (The slight increase in the death-rate for 1919—though the deaths were less in number than for the previous year—is due to the difference in the estimates of population between the years 1918 and 1919.) Eighty-one, or 53·2 per cent. of the deaths during the year 1919 were of persons over 65 years of age, 41 of these being over 70, 19 over 80, and 6 over 90 years of age.

There were no deaths of Soldiers in the District.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—The number of deaths under one year was 13 as against 9 for 1918, or a rate per 1,000 births of 76·9, as against 53·8 for the year 1918. (Four of these deaths were due to Premature Birth and Debility.) Though higher than for the year 1918, this is not an unsatisfactory rate, if the deaths from non-preventible causes are taken into consideration.

PHTHISIS MORTALITY.—Three deaths occurred from this disease, as against 7 for 1918, or a death-rate of 0·27 per 1,000 of the population, as against 0·65 for the year 1918. This is a very satisfactory decrease.

There were also two deaths from Tuberculous Meningitis, and two from other Tuberculous Diseases.

RESPIRATORY DISEASES MORTALITY (Bronchitis and Pneumonia). Nineteen deaths were caused by these diseases, giving a death-rate of 1·73 per 1,000 of the population, as against 22 deaths and a rate of 1·90 for the year 1918.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES MORTALITY (excluding deaths from Diarrhœa and Enteritis over two years of age). Five deaths occurred, shewing a death-rate of 0·45 per 1,000 of the population, as against four deaths and a rate of 0·34 for the year 1918. The deaths from these diseases were one from Measles, three from Whooping Cough, and one from Diphtheria.

CANCER MORTALITY.—There were twelve deaths from this disease, or at the rate of 1·09 per 1,000 of the population, as against six deaths and a rate of 0·51 for the year 1918.

TABLE I.

BRIXWORTH RURAL DISTRICT.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1919 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

Year.	Population Estimated to Middle of each Year.	Births.		Total Deaths Registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths.		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.			
		Nett.						Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.	
		Number	Rate.	Number.	Rate.	Of Non- residents registered in the District.	Of Resi- dents not registered in the District.	Number	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	Number	Rate.
1914	11,833	245	20·7	156	13·1	9	23	17	69·3	170	14·3
1915	11,559	217	18·7	185	16·0	37	18	17	78·3	166	14·3
1916	11,559	213	18·4	168	14·5	27	11	13	61·0	152	13·1
1917	11,559	185	16·0	166	14·3	28	25	16	86·4	163	14·1
1918	11 559	167	14·4	162	14·0	26	19	9	53·8	155	13·4
1919	10,941 (Civilian)	169	14·8	149	13·6	15	18	13	76·9	152	13·8

Total population at all ages	11,833	} Census 1911
Area of District in Acres	...	...	63,647
Total families or separate occupiers	...	...	2,987

TABLE II.

DEATHS REGISTERED DURING THE CALENDAR YEAR 1919 CLASSIFIED
BY AGE AND CAUSE.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Nett Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring within or without the District.									Total Deaths whether of "Residents" or "Non- Residents" in Institutions in the District.
	At all Ages.	Under 1 year	1 and under 2 years	2 and under 5 years	5 and under 15 years	15 and under 25 years	25 and under 45 years	45 and under 65 years	65 ^a nd upwards	
Measles ...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough ...	3	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Croup ...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	<i>a</i> 3
Influenza ...	21	1	1	...	...	4	6	3	6	<i>c</i> 2
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) ...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	8 (<i>a</i> 7, <i>c</i> 1)
Tuberculous Meningitis ...	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...
Other Tuberculous Diseases ...	2	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	<i>c</i> 1
Cancer—Malignant Disease ...	12	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	10	3 (<i>b</i> 1, <i>c</i> 2)
Organic Heart Disease ...	13	...	...	...	...	2	3	1	7	...
Bronchitis ...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	5	...
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	13	5	3	1	...	1	1	2	...	<i>c</i> 2
Nephritis and Bright's Disease...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Congenital Debility and Mal- formation, including Pre- mature Birth ...	4	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Violent deaths, excluding Suicide	2	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...
Suicide ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Other Defined Diseases ...	66	1	...	...	1	...	2	12	50	<i>c</i> 8
Diseases ill-defined or unknown	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Totals ...	152	13	5	1	6	7	16	23	81	27

a "Non-Residents" at Northampton County Borough Hospitals.*b* "Residents" at " " " "*c* "Residents" at Workhouse.

TABLE III.

INFANT MORTALITY, 1919.

Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under One Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.		Under 1 week	1—2 weeks	2—3 weeks	3—4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1—3 months	3—6 months	6—9 months	9—12 months	Total Deaths under 1 year
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	2
Premature Birth	...	2	...	2	...	4	...	...	...	...	4
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	1	...	...	1	1	...	1	2	5
Cyanosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Totals	...	2	1	2	...	5	2	...	3	3	13

Nett Births in the year	{	legitimate	...	154
	{	illegitimate	...	15
Nett Deaths in the year of	{	legitimate infants	...	13
	{	illegitimate infants	...	0

SANITARY REPORT.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Excluding Measles, 59 cases of Infectious Disease were notified during the year.

SCARLET FEVER.

5 cases were notified during the year as against 7 for 1918.

3 of the 5 cases occurred at Boughton.

All the cases were of a mild type.

DIPHTHERIA AND MEMBRANEOUS CROUP.

17 cases were notified during the year as against 6 for 1918 and 17 for 1917.

The chief outbreaks occurred at Scaldwell and Moulton, where there were 7 and 5 cases respectively. At Scaldwell, cases occurred at intervals of three or four months; on the village green five untrapped drains connected with the sewer were discovered, which may have been a possible cause of the outbreak.

At Moulton the first case was notified on June 20th and the last on July 23rd, the Schools were then closed and after that there were no more cases.

TYPHOID FEVER.

1 case was notified during the year as against none for 1918 and 1 for 1917.

The case which occurred at Holcot was of a very mild type.

PHTHISIS AND OTHER TUBERCULOUS DISEASES.

18 cases were notified as against 29 for 1918; this is a very satisfactory decrease on last year.

MEASLES.

96 cases were notified during the year as against 182 for 1918. The chief outbreaks occurred at Guilsborough, Holdenby, and Pitsford.

OTHER INFECTIOUS CASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR WERE—

- 6 of Erysipelas.
- 6 of Malaria.
- 5 of Influenzal Pneumonia.
- 1 of Cerebro Spinal Meningitis.

CEREBRO SPINAL MENINGITIS.

This case occurred in a boy, aged 13 years, living at Overstone; the patient was removed to the Northampton Hospital where he died a few days after admittance.

INFLUENZA.

There was an extensive epidemic of Influenza during the months of February and March, but during the latter part of the year there have been many fewer cases and of a much milder type.

BIRTHS.

138 births were notified; 169 registered.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

The Isolation Hospital has been opened twice during the year, in January for a case of Diphtheria and in October for a case of Scarlet Fever.

From my Report, as regards Infectious Disease, you will notice a marked increase in Diphtheria, a slight decrease in Scarlet Fever, and a marked decrease in Measles and Tuberculosis. There has been a marked increase in the death-rate from Cancer and a marked decrease in deaths from Phthisis. On the whole I consider the health of the District has been good.

I have to thank the Sanitary Inspector for his hearty co-operation, and you, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen, for your courtesy and support.

I am,

Yours obediently,

R. WINTERBOTHAM.

